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PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION BRANCH
821 Market Street, Room 656
San Francisco 3, California

In cooperation with the Federal-State Market News Service

## WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending June 4, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, June 1--- Considering supplies, prices and quality of vegetables, Asparagus is the "Best Buy" of the week; it is wholesaling at about as low a price as it is expected it will sell for this season.

"Fairly Good Buys" include: Cabbage, Cauliflower (slightly higher),
Celery (slightly higher), Dry Onions, New Crop Potatoes, and Tomatoes.

Artichokes, Peas and Squash are "Fair Buys" this week.

Snap Beans have dropped in price a little but are still high, as are Corn, Cucumbers, and Peppers.

On the fruit side, Strawberries and Youngberries are "Fairly Good Buys."

Small Cranges can still be considered a "Fair Buy," while Grapefruit

has gone up in price sufficiently to put it out of the "Fair Buy" class.

Cantaloups are slightly lower priced but are still high.

Avocados are higher.

Supplies of Cherries go up and down, depending upon the weather.

There are a few Figs, Peaches, Apricots, and Watermelons in the market, but they are all high priced.

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Fork this week in keeping with the \$2.00 hike in wholesale market prices.

Lard, too, has gone up \$1.00 per hundred pounds. All other classes of meat are unchanged in price from last week. Generally, there has been a good domand for supplies of Beef comprised of mostly Commercial and Good steer and holfer carcasses. Cow Beef is rather scarce. Light supplies of Good and Choice grades of Veal and Calf have been in broad demand. The daily slaughter of Lamb has had fairly broad demand. And there has been more demand for fairly liberal supplies of Fresh Pork.

Trading in the San Francisco wholesale Butter market continues light.

Most dealers are unwilling to buy in excess of immediate needs, Grade B(90 Score) has dropped 1-cent to 77 cents per pound. Grade A(92 Score) is unchanged at 84 cents per pound. Compared with prices a year ago, these quotations are 15 to 20 cents higher.

Grade "B" Large Eggs have dropped 2 cents since last week to a wholesale quotation of  $47-47\frac{1}{2}$  cents per dozen. All Grade "A" eggs are unchanged, with Grade "A" Large quoted at  $54-54\frac{1}{2}$  cents, Mediums at  $50-51\frac{1}{2}$  cents, and Smalls at  $43-44\frac{1}{2}$  cents. Demand has been slow for Small and Medium sizes, while top grades have been in good demand for storage purposes. Production has tapered off some, but is still 10 percent larger than a year ago,

All classes of Poultry were in good demand for the holiday. Small fryers sold 1 to 2 cents per pound higher. Turkeys moved well on an upward price trend, with prices on Young Toms 20 cents higher than a year ago. Prices on all other classes are unchanged from last week.

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## WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending June 11, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO. June 8 --- This week's buys on vegetables line up like this. New Potatoes, Cabbage, and Soft Squashes (in heavier supply and lower priced) are "Good Buys."

Asparagus is a "Fairly Good Buy."

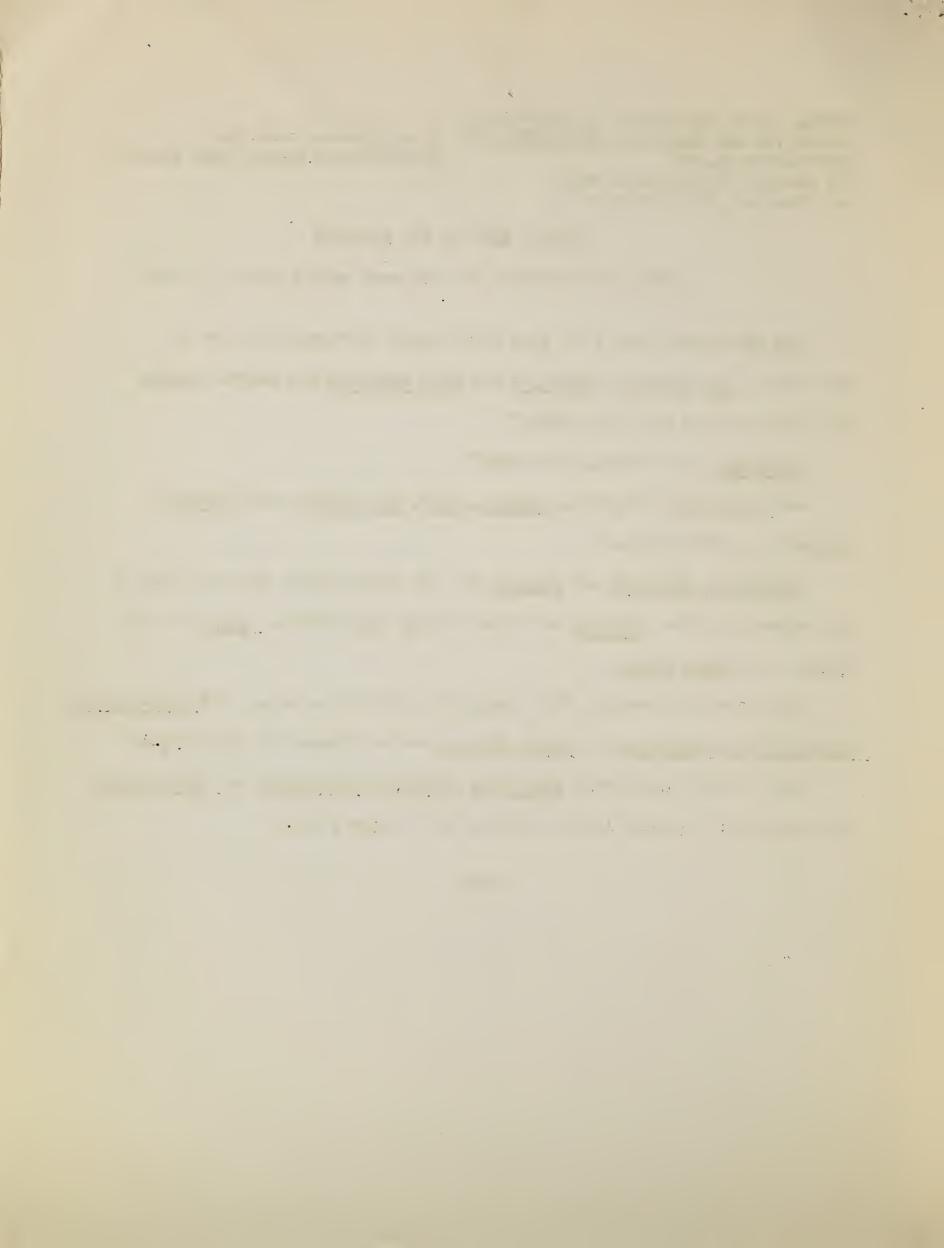
And Artichokes (higher), Lettuce, Peas, Dry Onions, and Tomatoes (higher) are "Fair Buys."

Cucumbers, Eggplant and Peppers are all lower priced but are still on the expensive side. Carrots are still fairly high priced. Corn, too, is high, as are Snap Beans.

There are no so-called "Good Buys" in fruits this week. But Strawberries, Youngberries, Cherries, and Small Oranges can be classed as "Fair Buys."

This is the season when Apricots, Peaches, Cantaloups, and Watermelons are beginning to appear in the market, but at high prices.

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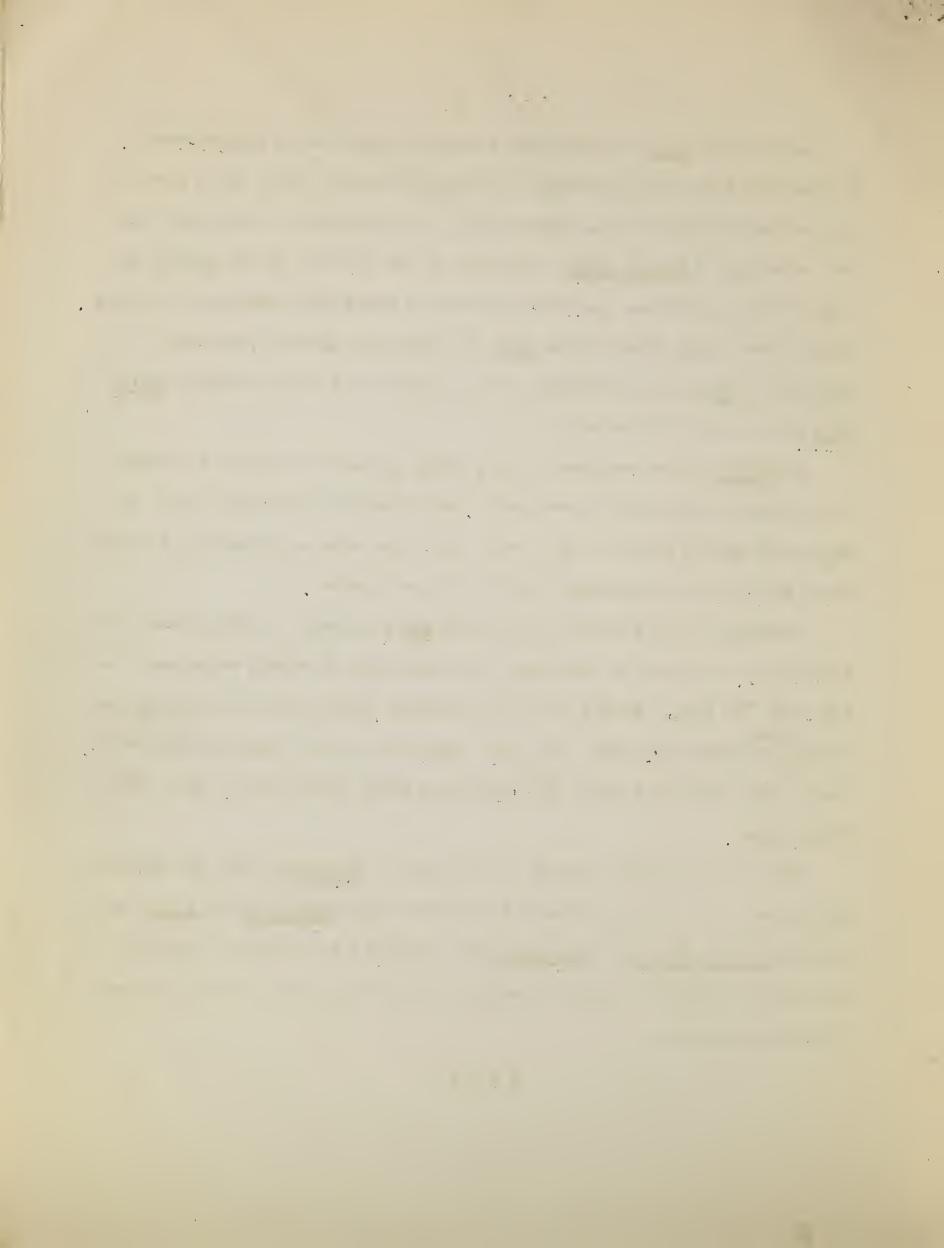
Last week's Meat slaughter was tailored to meet trade requirements.

For the first two days following the holiday week-end, there was a rush of deliveries, but after that, supplies began to accumulate. Rains held back the marketing of Spring Lambs, resulting in few Good and Choice grades and a \$2.00 hike in prices. All other classes of meats held unchanged in price. Coolers were amply stocked with Beef of mostly Good grade. Generally, supplies of Veal were of Utility and Good grades and cleared daily. Fresh Pork was in only fair demand.

As <u>Butter</u> prices continue to stay high, production and sales continue to lag considerably behind last year. San Francisco's wholesale price on Grade A(92 Score) butter is up 2 cents from last week at 86 cents per pound. Grade B(90 Score) is unchanged at 77 cents per pound.

Contrary to the situation on butter, Egg production is  $17\frac{1}{2}$  percent above last year, and prices are unchanged from last week at  $54-54\frac{1}{2}$  cents per dozen for Grade "A" Large,  $50-51\frac{1}{2}$  cents for Mediums,  $43-44\frac{1}{2}$  cents for Smalls, and cents  $47-47\frac{1}{2}$ /for Grade "B" Large. Top grade eggs are in good demand, but there's only a fair demand for Grade "A" Medium and Small sizes and for Grade "B" Large eggs.

There is an adequate supply of all kinds of Poultry in the San Francisco market, but demand this past week has centered upon Broilers and Fowl. As a result, Colored Fryers and Roasters have dropped 2 to 3 cents on both live and dressed weights. Young Tom Turkeys have gone up 1 to 2 cents per pound on dressed weights.



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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending June 18, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, June 15 --- This week's "Good" fruit buys are youngberries, boysenberries, and small oranges.

Cherries are in moderate supply, but prices are rather high.

Supplies of apricots, peaches (early varieties), cantaloups, and watermelons are coming in in increasing volume, but prices are still high.

Plums are scarce and high.

And grapefruit and lemons have gone up in price.

"Good Buys" in vegetables are asparagus, cabbage, new-crop potatoes, and soft squashes.

Tagged as the week's "Fairly Good Buys" are artichokes, celery, cucumbers (lower), lettuce, onions, and peas.

Expensively priced items include peppers, eggplant, good quality tomatoes, snap beans, carrots, and green corn.

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Beef, lamb and pork doubtless will cost San Francisco-Bay Area consumers more this week, because there was a decided upward trend in San Francisco wholesale prices last week. And there were indications that prices would go still higher on beef and lamb this week. Most cuts of beef went up \$1.00 to \$2.00; all lamb and mutton went up \$1.00; most fresh pork cuts were up \$2.00; and smoked and cured pork products gained \$2.00 to \$4.00. Liberal supplies of fresh veal and calf held unchanged in price, and there was a full assortment of grades. On beef, the supply was predominantly Commercial grade. Lamb ran mostly to Good and Choice grades. Last week's demand was sufficient to readily absorb the rather light slaughter.

With the San Francisco wholesale butter market somewhat unsettled,

Grade A(92 Score) butter is selling on a 1-cent lower price spread at 85 to

86 cents per pound. Grade B(90 Score) remains unchanged from last week at

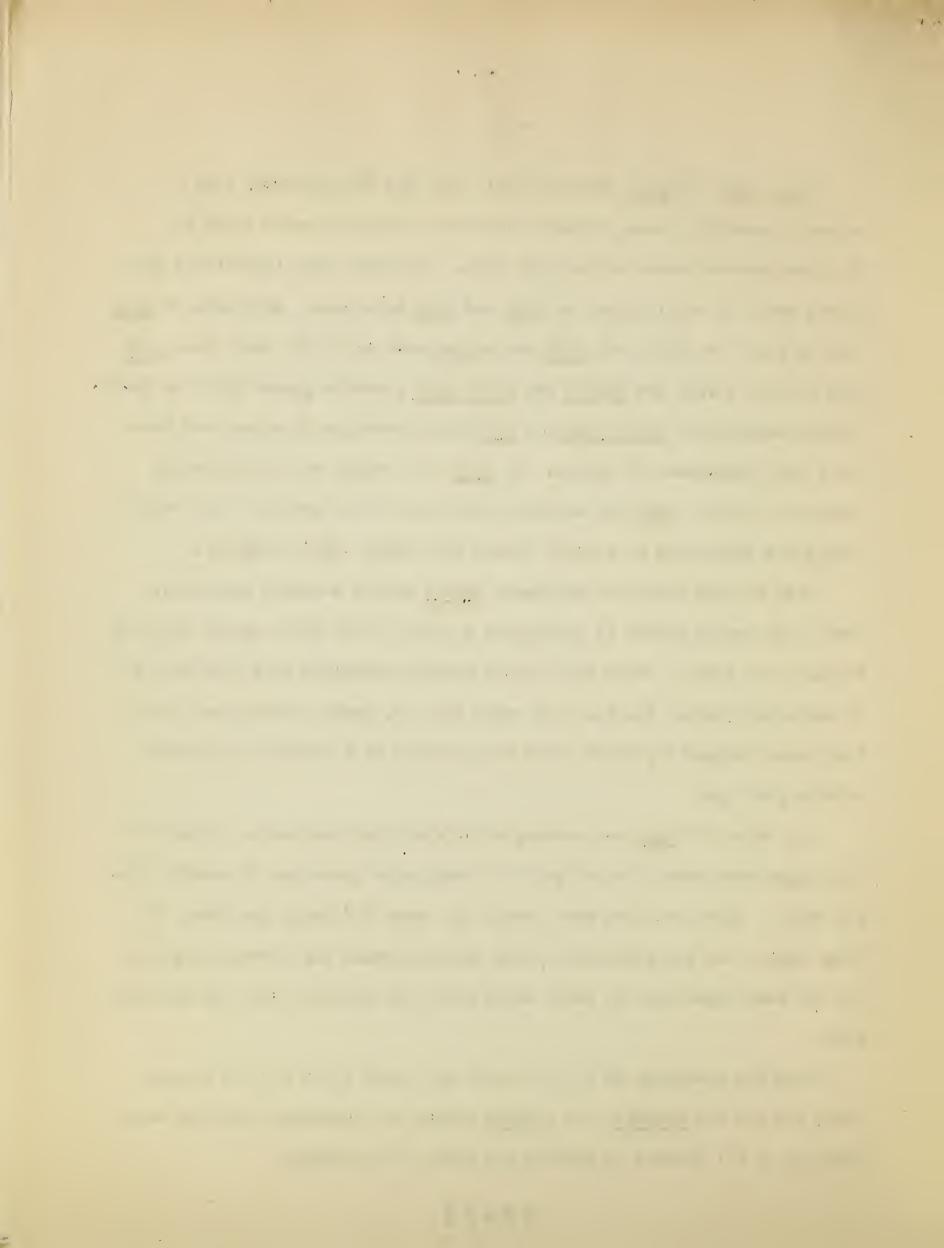
77 cents per pound. For the week ended June 10, butter production on the

West Coast dropped 5 percent below the previous week and was 24 percent

below a year ago.

All Grade "A" eggs are unchanged in price from last week. Grade "B" Large eggs have made a 2-cent gain to a wholesale quotation of  $49-49\frac{1}{2}$  cents per dozen. There has been more demand for Grade "A" Small and Grade "B" Large eggs. And top grades have been in good demand for storage purposes. For the week ended June 5, total sales were 4.85 percent above the previous week.

With the exception of a 1 to 2-cent per pound price rise on dressed young hen and tom turkeys, all poultry prices are unchanged from last week. Supplies of all classes of poultry are good, as is demand.



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## WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending June 25, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, June 22--- Fruits are becoming more seasonably abundant, but there are still few so-called "Good Buys." Some of the berries are in this category -- including youngberries, loganberries, and boysenberries.

Supplies of strawberries, however, are lighter than usual for this time of year due to rains awhile back.

Cantaloups and peaches are now down in price enough to be considered "Fair Buys."

Apricots, figs, nectarines, and plums are coming in in heavier supply, but prices are still rather high, although lower than they have been.

Cherries and watermelons remain high priced.

The first of the new-crop White Astrachan apples have begun to appear in the markets.

Labeled as "Good Buys" in the vegetable kingdom are cabbage, celery, cucumbers, and new-crop potatoes.

In the "Fair Buy" class are artichokes, asparagus, snap beans (lower), cauliflower, eggplant, lettuce, onions, peas, and soft squashes.

Carrots are gradually coming down in price.

Peppers and green corn are still quite expensive.

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Meat prices in the San Francisco wholesale market continued to climb upward last week. Beef went up \$1.00 to \$2.00; spring lambs gained \$3.00; and fresh pork carcasses advanced mostly \$2.00. For the most part, pork cuts held unchanged in price, as did veal. Fresh hams, however, were priced \$2.00 higher. Light supplies, a growing tendency upon the part of producers to hold their stock for further weight gains, higher prices on replacement stock, and a good demand were a stimulus to the higher prices.

Top quality butter has gone up 2 cents on the San Francisco wholesale market since last week. Grade A(92 Score) is quoted at 88 cents per pound. Grade B(90 Score) still remains unchanged at 77 cents per pound. Although supplies are adequate, production is running considerably below last year.

Eggs are unchanged in price from last week. Grade "A" Large are quoted at  $54-54\frac{1}{2}$  cents per dozen, Mediums at  $-50-51\frac{1}{2}$  cents, Smalls at  $43-44\frac{1}{2}$  cents, and Grade "B" Large at  $49-49\frac{1}{2}$  cents per dozen. Production continues to taper off, under the influence of warm weather, but there are still plenty of eggs. Demand has been only moderate.

Supplies of poultry are liberal. Although prices are not greatly changed from last week, there are a few fluctuations. Colored fryers and Leghorn fowl are selling 1 to 2 cents per pound lower. Colored roasters are up about one cent. And young tom turkeys are 3 to 5 cents per pound higher.

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